

## The Intelligencer.

FEW, CAMPBELL & HART,  
PROPRIETORS.

ISSUED DAILY, SUNDAY AND WEEKLY.

TERMS:  
By Mail, Postage Free in the United States.  
Daily, One Year, \$5.00  
Daily, Six Months, \$3.00  
Daily, Three Months, \$2.00  
Daily, One Month, .65  
Semi-Weekly, One Year, 2.50  
Semi-Weekly, Six Months, 1.25  
Semi-Weekly, Three Months, .80  
Semi-Weekly, One Month, .25  
Weekly, One Year, 1.00  
Weekly, Six Months, .60  
Weekly, Three Months, .40  
Weekly, One Month, .15

The Daily Intelligencer is Delivered by Carriers in Wheeling and adjacent towns at 15 cents per week.

(Entered at the Postoffice at Wheeling, W. Va., as second-class matter.)

WHEELING, FEBRUARY 8, 1889.

If, in the Atkinson-Pendleton contest, the Republican Congress should decide Mr. Pendleton has no right to his seat until the contest is decided—that his bare majority on the face of the returns (whether legally or illegally secured) is not a prima facie title to his seat, and that the Democratic organ here would howl about Republican revolutionists; and yet this is just the course it advocates in the Goff-Fleming contest.

According to the theory of the Democratic position at Charleston any Governor-elect, no matter if he were to have a majority of twenty thousand upon the face of the returns, could be prevented from taking his seat. A candidate of an opposing party who had not received a dozen votes in the State would only have to file a notice of contest, attacking votes in each county, to prevent the returns from all of them being opened and published, and this could be done with regard to every State office. What a fine state of affairs we would have; and this is the logic of the position of the Democratic "constitutional lawyers" at Charleston! Will any one undertake to say in all sincerity that there is either justice or right in such a position?

Can't Keep Track of Them.

The Democrats at Charleston change their views as to the meaning of the constitution so often that it is hard to keep the run of them. Up to the present writing they stand as follows:

1. The result shall not be declared.
2. The returns shall not be published.
3. The returns shall be read but not entered on the journal.
4. The returns, when attacked, shall not be read at all.
5. The returns thus far read shall be considered as not having been read.
6. A protest from the minority has no right to be considered nor recorded.
7. —?

We leave a blank for another possible "strict construction" at variance with all the others, which may occur before this paper reaches its readers. They can fill it out when they receive the news.

The Cap Sheet.

The action of the Democratic majority in the Legislature yesterday in voting not to allow the Republican protest to go on the record was unprecedented and revolutionary. It was an act worthy of a band of conspirators who are determined upon a line of procedure at variance with every rule of decency and law, and equally determined that they will never allow to go on the public record the story of the false position they have assumed.

The action caps the climax of the outrages upon the constitution and the people. Not in all history has a bolder or a more inexcusable act ever been committed by any party, in its most desperate efforts to accomplish an unholy end.

The Democrats were not asked to endorse the protest, but to permit it to go on the record as a part of the proceedings.

It is not at all surprising that the situation approaches nearly to revolution. It will not be surprising if the people of this State rise up in their majesty and summarily call to account their representatives who have been guilty of the series of crimes of which this is the worst.

To say that the protest of a minority against the act of a majority shall not go upon the record of any parliamentary body is to suppress a right of the minority which the Constitution guarantees to it.

The honest people of West Virginia will hide their faces in shame when they hear of this crowning infamy of all the infamies that have recently blackened the good name of their State.

Concerning "Incendiarism and Revolution."

The Wheeling organ of the Democratic party vociferously protests against what it is pleased to call the "incendiarism" of the Republican press in discussing the revolutionary conduct of the Democratic majority in the Legislature. No incendiary language has been indulged in, unless the plain declaration that the honest people of West Virginia will not quietly submit to be the fundamental law of the State trampled under foot can be so considered.

The Intelligencer has never advocated a revolutionary step. It early took the position, and consistently maintained it, that General Goff, having received a plurality of the votes cast for Governor, is entitled to be declared the Governor-elect as commanded by the Constitution; that the Democratic majority having refused to obey the mandate of the Constitution in this regard is guilty of a revolutionary act; that the whole proceeding at Charleston is contrary to law and precedent; that, notwithstanding all this, General Goff is entitled to be sworn in as Governor on the 4th of March, unless it shall be decided before that time, in accordance with the law, that he is not entitled to the seat; that Judge Fleming's contest of General Goff's election should be pursued in the manner prescribed by the law, and that pending that contest the man having the majority on the face of the returns shall be considered the legally elected Governor. If this is incendiary talk, the Democratic organ may make the most of it. It is the side of justice, of right and of the Constitution, and all the efforts of the Democratic majority in the Legislature to contort the language of the Constitution cannot avail to make it anything else.

The Democratic organ blusters about the Republicans carrying the game of politics too far because they do not submissively swallow the dose of revolutionary medicine the Democratic majority would administer to them. It denounces as an outrage on the State that

Republicans should dare to lift their voices against the high and mighty "constitutional lawyers" who have taken it into their heads that the Constitution does not mean what it says; that the language, "shall open and publish the returns," may be construed in as many ways as will suit their partisan purpose.

It matters not that this majority of "constitutional lawyers" have changed their position five times since the debate in the joint assembly began, and that each time they have reversed themselves and made themselves the laughing stock of all the fair-minded lawyers and citizens of the State. It matters not that during this whole farce, when the Democratic side has distinguished itself by some extra fine ground and lofty tumbling, the Republican side has consistently maintained but one position. It matters not that distinguished Democratic lawyers, and leading Democratic journals of the country, have taken the Republican position, and have denounced the tactics of their party as unlawful and revolutionary—still it is treason for a Republican to enter his protest and to say boldly that he will not submit quietly.

Will the able "constitutional lawyer" who writes the alleged editorials of the Democratic organ give us his opinion of Judge Ferguson's opinion? Judge Ferguson is the peer of any lawyer in the State, if not in the country, and as such enjoys a national reputation. He is a Democrat. He takes the Republican position that the Democrats have violated the fundamental law of the State. Is he, too, a "demagogue" and a "blusterer"? Other Democratic leaders and Democratic lawyers have taken the same position. There are some, we are advised, in the Legislature, who have done so, but their tongues are tied by caucus obligations, and through a false sense of honor, they imagine themselves prevented from voting their honest sentiments.

Judge Ferguson and other distinguished Democrats have warned their party that it is digging its grave by pursuing its present tactics. Are they revolutionists?

It is amusing to see the Democratic organ each day declare that the "contest" is being carried on properly and according to a strict construction of the constitution. What in the Democratic mind constitutes "strict construction"? Is it an adherence to the letter and the spirit, or is it the adoption of a wide latitude which permits them to attach to words meanings that would make Noah Webster wonder if, after all, his life's work was a failure? Does a strict constructionist change his views as to the meaning of the constitution five times within three days? Is a party strictly constraining the constitution when it declares one day that the constitution demands of it to do a certain thing, and the next day vows that just the opposite thing is right?

Frankly, are not the Democratic "constructionists" (more properly, "destructionists") at Charleston making themselves ridiculous before the eyes of the world, and the everlasting laughing-stock of the generations of lawyers yet to come? And is not the organ of a party gaining the unenviable reputation of a political contortionist when it has not the manliness to acknowledge that its party leaders are cutting a laughable figure and attempts to follow them, which involves the changing of its views on a question of party policy and constitutional law at least once every twenty-four hours?

Seriously speaking, the INTELLIGENCER does not believe that General Goff will be obliged to wade through blood to take the seat to which the people have elected him. It does believe, however, that if the contest is not decided, as the law prescribes it shall be decided, before the 4th of March in Judge Fleming's favor, General Goff, being entitled to do so, will take the oath of office and serve as Governor until the matter is determined either for or against him, unless his friends, who comprise the people who elected him, desire him to do otherwise. This, as the INTELLIGENCER's Charleston dispatches have said, is a matter for General Goff and his friends to seriously consider. This serious consideration might result in confirming the present determination of General Goff and his friends to take the seat, as he would be clearly entitled to do.

While such a course would involve the State in political turmoil, the INTELLIGENCER has never said it believed that it would cause bloodshed. No one desires that, and General Goff is the last man who would in any manner encourage it; nor do we believe Judge Fleming would countenance it.

The Democratic revolutionists who are playing their desperate game at Charleston would scarcely go to the end of resorting to armed force to prevent the Republican Governor-elect from taking his seat pending the contest. They know as well as anybody that public sentiment would not sustain them in such a course. They realize fully that the members of their own party are not unanimous in their endorsement of the policy they are now pursuing and could scarcely hope for a united support in such an undertaking. But if they should so resist, then General Goff would not shrink from the duty that would be his under the circumstances.

The INTELLIGENCER has never, and does not now, advocate anything that would precipitate violence; but the INTELLIGENCER advocates right and justice, and believes that the Constitution and the law should be sustained, no matter what the consequences. It believes that General Goff and his friends will decide upon the wisest course, and that it will be as consistent and lawful as their policy has been up to this time.

There are but two sides to this question, a right and a wrong side. The Republicans firmly believe they are right. The difficulty the Democrats had in fixing upon a position is evidence that they have little faith in the justice of their cause.

Asking Too Much.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The chief of a Chicago restaurant has the gall to apply to General Harrison for the position of steward of the White House. Come off, Chicago, shall not have this Chief Justice and Lord of the White House scullery also.

UNCERTAINTY may attend business ventures and enterprises, but it never attends the prompt administration of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. Price 35 cents.

"MILK-AND" Crotchet has no equal.

## THE GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST.

A Man Who Told Against Goff Speaks for Right and Justice.

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

Sir: The Constitution imposes a duty on the Legislature irrespective of party, and that duty is to count the vote for Governor and declare the result on or before a certain time named. The question then arises: Are there any causes that will excuse the Legislature from performing this duty? If there are they must be such causes as are plainly deducible from the language and intent of the Constitution. Will fraudulent voting charged but not proven; will insurrection, or such natural disturbances as may prevent the holding of an election in some locality; will pestilence or any natural cause that would prevent the people in a congressional district from voting, or from returning their votes, excuse the counting of the vote in the time prescribed? Not at all. And why not? 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